

The Indiana Supreme Court Legal History Series presents:

Mendez v. Westminster: “Para Todos Los Niños:” School Segregation in the post-Brown Era?

A free program for students discussing issues of school segregation

May 2, 2007, 10:00-11:30 A.M.

Indiana Statehouse

Indiana Supreme Court Courtroom, Room 317

In celebration of Law Day 2007, and in the spirit of this year’s theme, “Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy,” the Indiana Supreme Court Legal History Series will host a free school program featuring Sandra Robbie--the Emmy Award-winning writer/producer of “*Mendez v. Westminster: Para Todos Los Niños* (For All the Children).”



The Mendez Children posing with their sitter.

Before there was *Brown v. Board of Education*, there was *Mendez v. Westminster*. Years before the U.S. Supreme Court decided the better-known case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Mendez family moved to Orange County, California, where their children were denied access to their local all-white public schools. The Mendez family fought the discriminatory policy of the local school authorities and won! Shortly thereafter, Governor Earl Warren ordered the end of segregation in California’s schools. Seven years later, as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Warren authored the opinion in *Brown v. Board of Education* that declared all separate schools inherently unequal, and in *Brown II*, he ordered America’s public schools to desegregate “with all deliberate speed.”

The school program, featuring Ms. Robbie, will help students understand the reasons for segregation and how students have the power to implement change in a democratic society. The event will include 2 small group activities, viewing an excerpt from the documentary and talking about how it was made, and discussion of types of segregation still in schools today.



Sandra Robbie

Sandra Robbie is a Latina resident of the same community where the Mendez children lived and went to school. Ms. Robbie has worked tirelessly to bring this story to the public’s attention. As an intern at a local PBS affiliate, Robbie researched, wrote and produced a documentary focusing on *Mendez* for which she received an Emmy Award in 2002.

For more information or to make a reservation contact: Dr. Elizabeth R. Osborn, Assistant to the Chief Justice for Court History & Public Education, 317-232-2550 or eosborn@courts.state.in.us